TILL MURDER CONFESSION
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THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Vol. XX — No. 3 | 267 | NEW YORK, N. Y., MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 1956 | PRICE: 10 Cents

"You Restored My Pension -- Now Give Me Back My Job!" Kutcher Tells Witch Hunters

It's All There in Print

George Weissman, Treas. of the Kutcher Civil Rights Committee, and James Kutcher check over the transcript of the hearing held in Washington Dec. 30. The Veterans Administration backed down on its attempt to deprive the legless veteran of his World War II pension. For the first time a witch-hunt, administrative hearing was opened to the press.

The Fight Continues!

An Editorial

The attempt to rob James Kutcher of the disability pension that was his due when he lost both legs in the Second World War has been defeated. The Veterans Administration, after its "I-make-the-rules" hearing, decided that it didn't have enough grounds for picking the pocket of the Socialist veteran.

Very good. The fight for justice that Kutcher has waged for nearly eight years scored a victory. But Kutcher's civil liberties will not be restored until he gets his job back. The fight goes on and it will continue until people are free to think as they please, to write as they please, to associate with whom they please without fear of persecution. Nothing short of that will satisfy Kutcher — or the majority of the American people.

In addition to Kutcher's means of subsistence — an absolute minimum that had to be won — what gains have been made in this fight against the witch hunt? In 1955 the government, for the first time, began to invade the impartial and **non-political** administration of social security legislation.

The attempt of the VA to take Kutcher's pension away was part of a political decision by the witch hunters to tighten the economic squeeze on political dissidents even to the extent of depriving them of what was legally and specifically theirs — old age pensions of Communist Party functionaries and the pensions of disabled war veterans.

The laws governing these payments were clearly constructed to prevent their use by changing political powers. The sole basis for determining pension payments has always been of a technical, not a political nature.

In Kutcher's case the VA did not yield its usurpation

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Seamen Rally Behind Westinghouse Strike

By Art Sharon

NEW YORK, Jan. 11 — The three-month strike of Westinghouse workers remained at a deadlock this week. This, the nation's major strike, involving 55,000 production workers, has turned into a deadly test of strength between the second largest electrical manufacturer and the unions: the AFL-CIO Electrical Workers union representing 45,000 workers and the independent United Electrical Workers union, which has come under government witch-hunt attack, representing the balance.

Negotiations that were sponsored by the Federal Mediation Service were broken off by the company in Pittsburgh but were later resumed in Philadelphia. The two sides are meeting at the negotiating table, but the real war continues at the plant gates where Westinghouse is attempting to smash the strike with the aid of scabs and police.

Every strikebreaking trick in the book has been used by the corporation and it has succeeded **in getting some scabs into the** plants, notably in the Columbus and Mansfield, Ohio, plants. There have been a series of violent assaults on the picket lines. Many have been injured and one worker, Troy Tadlock, is dead.

Big Business is watching the Westinghouse situation with direct interest and concern. The outcome of the strike will have great bearing on "labor relations" throughout the nation. For that reason there is a growing awareness of the strike's importance in the labor movement.

A signal demonstration has been made on the initiative of the Baltimore branch of the Seafarers International Union. In that city the SIU initiated a local labor rally under the banner of the unified AFL-CIO for support to the Westinghouse workers.

But even more important is the SIU's action in dispatching its members daily to the picket line to help out the IUE workers. This kind of action deserves to be emulated by the labor movement everywhere.

READY TO ARBITRATE

The IUE leadership is pinning much hope on the intervention of the mayors of cities that have Westinghouse picket lines. These worthies are meeting at present in Pittsburgh seeking a formula that would end the walkout while submitting the disputed issues to arbitration.

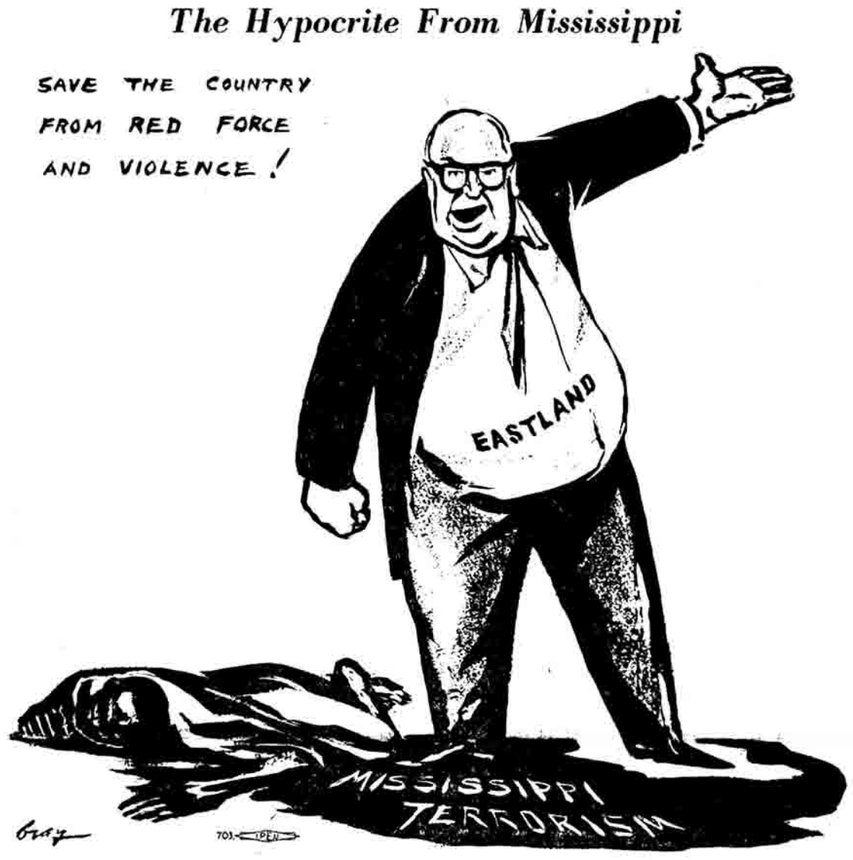
The IUE has agreed to go back upon the terms of the old contract while submitting the disputed issues to binding arbitration.

But the critical issue of the strike, the company's right to unilaterally set production standards and move on to automation without interference from the union — this critical issue of speed-up, is being decided on the far-flung picket line manned by Westinghouse workers.

The binding arbitration proposal that the IUE leadership has so eagerly seized has been opposed so far by the corporation. The latter wants this stage to be entered only after giving the IUE a severe beating. Then an arbitration award that would substantially support the Westinghouse position could be pushed down the throats of the Westinghouse workers with greater ease.

This strike is serving to rudely disrupt the labor-management-harmony pipe dreams that have been the favorite themes of AFL-CIO leaders. It is almost like a dramatic confrontation of James Carey of a year ago, when he introduced Gwinn Price, President of Westinghouse, to an IUE meeting with great praise for the new wisdom animating the heads of industry and labor and the end of the class struggle.

The Hypocrite From Mississippi



SEN. EASTLAND'S WITCH HUNT SEEN AS PART OF DIXIECRAT OPERATIONS

By Harry Ring

Jan. 9 — Senator Eastland (D-Miss.), who has been busy organizing a federation of race terrorists in the South, has also, as head of the Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security, taken charge of the search for "subversives" in the nation's press.

While Eastland declared for the record that the activities of his committee were not aimed at any specific paper, just "communism," it was quite apparent that, in addition to the destruction of freedom of the press in general, he was out to do a special hatchet job on the New York Times.

In its closed sessions last month the committee hauled 38 witnesses before it. Thirty of them were past or present employees of the Times. In the week of public hearings which concluded Jan. 6 there were 18 witnesses. Thirteen of these were also past or present employees of the Times.

CRITICIZED EASTLAND

The Times has in the recent period been critical of the "excesses" of the witch hunters. Even worse, from Eastland's point of view, the Times has editorially advised Eastland and his white supremacy cohorts to accept the Supreme Court ban on school segregation.

There was no direct effort at the hearing to show that the conservative Times actually committed the diabolical "crime" of publishing radical views. Eastland confined himself to inference and innuendo. By demonstrating with a parade of witnesses that various employees of the Times had at one time or another been allegedly associated with the Communist Party, he put the sign of "subversion" over the most authoritative mouthpiece of U.S. Big Business.

With this attack on the Times, Eastland served due notice to the press in general that if it dared to criticize his nefarious activities, it was laying itself open to the same treatment.

As a result of this attack, the Times decided that the committee had carried its "excesses" to an extreme and trained its editorial guns on the committee. In doing so it was again careful to establish the fact, as when it finally opposed McCarthy, that it supported the fundamental principle of the witch hunt but that it was not ready to go along with these extremes.

SNOOPING IN GOOD FAITH

Its editorial, published Jan. 5, declared at the outset, "We do not question the right or the propriety of any investigation of the press by any agency of Congress." But, declared the Times, "It is the inescapable responsibility of Congress to make certain that any such inquiry be conducted in good faith and not motivated by ulterior purpose."

The Times, which has already fired a number of employees for refusing to cooperate with the witch hunters, also asserted, "It is our own business to decide whom we shall employ and not employ. We do not propose to hand that function over to the Eastland sub-committee."

The editorial blast of the Times, was an undoubted setback to the Eastland Committee. The day after it appeared seven of the nine Senators on the subcommittee absented themselves from the hearing. But it would be a serious mistake to assume that it in any way marks Eastland's finish as a combined witch hunter and race baiter.

Unlike McCarthy, who also sought to build a mass fascist base throughout the country, Eastland has already a solid base of power in the reactionary movement of the Southern capitalists and landlords. Through alliance with the Northern liberals the Dixiecrats have won a key position in Congress. Eastland and other Southern racists have utilized that position, in collaboration with the McCarthyites, to launch retaliatory measures against such Northern critics as the Times.

Eastland and his committee have laid new planks in the witch-hunting scaffold in the face of a trend of setbacks and reversals for McCarthyism generally. These setbacks have been registered in court and administrative decisions, all of which have sought to "regulate" the witch hunt while carefully avoiding any decision that would kick any fundamental prop from under it.

A FEW VICTORIES

The most recent of such decisions, in addition to the notable victory in the Kutcher case, are those of William Taylor,

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VA Retreat Opens Way To Victory

By Daniel Roberts

"It was a wonderful vindication of my position," said James Kutcher, World War II legless veteran, and Socialist Workers Party member, when he learned that the Veterans Administration had called off its latest attempt to deprive him of a livelihood by taking away his disability pension. "I think it was the publicity that made them retreat. . . I think now the court ought to rule favorably on my plea to get my job back and the government ought to stop trying to evict me from my house."

The Kutcher Civil Rights Committee, a non-partisan group formed seven years ago after Kutcher had been fired from his job as file clerk with the VA office in Newark, is stepping up the fight to get him back on the job. The case will soon be argued in the Circuit Court of Appeals, possibly even this month.

VA RETREATS UNDER FIRE

The Veterans Administration Central Committee on Waivers and Forfeitures ruled on Jan. 6 that Kutcher had not been "shown, beyond a reasonable doubt, to have been guilty" of "knowingly and intentionally [rendering] assistance to an enemy of the United States."

With this formula the VA seeks to maintain its smear of Kutcher through innuendo even as it retreats from its attack under fire of unprecedented public indignation.

At the Dec. 30 public hearing conducted by the committee on forfeitures Kutcher denied every one of its fantastic treason charges under oath, and branded "testimony" against him by faceless informers as unmitigated lies. Kutcher's testimony that all he had ever been "guilty" of was advocating socialist ideas in the open — a right guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution — was never seriously challenged. Indeed, Peyton H. Moss, chairman of the committee, repeatedly refused demands made by Kutcher's attorney, Joseph L. Rauh Jr., that informers against him be forced to testify at the hearing where they could be subjected to cross-examination.

The Veterans Administration's

(Continued on page 2)

Kutcher's Job Fight

The American Veterans Committee was among the first of many national organizations to give Kutcher support in his fight for his job. Here Kutcher is shown at the 1948 convention of the AVC as he was greeted by Chairman Chat Paterson (left) and George L. P. Weaver, Dir. of CIO National Committee to Abolish Discrimination (r).

President and Liberals Pull Civil Rights Fraud

By Herman Chauka

Reporting on civil rights, President Eisenhower in his Jan. 5 State of the Union message to Congress solemnly announced that "in some localities allegations persist that Negro citizens are being deprived of their right to vote and are likewise being subjected to unwarranted economic pressure." He recommended that a bipartisan Congressional committee investigate these "allegations."

LETTER TO EISENHOWER

Evidently Eisenhower has not kept up either with the state of the union or with his mail. For on Dec. 10, the Pittsburgh Courier, leading Negro newspaper in the U.S., addressed an open letter to the President informing him that Southern Negroes are being deprived not only of their ballot rights but their very lives. The Courier demanded that he immediately dispatch federal troops to Mississippi to protect Negroes in that state from a savage reign of terror.

Northern Democrats, with a sharp eye on the 1956 elections, were quick to denounce Eisenhower's proposal for an obviously meaningless "investigation." Senator Lehman (D-N.Y.) labelled it "just a way of stalling." Senator Douglas (D-Ill.) chimed in: "It's time we got some action. I'm more for action than study at this point."

But the liberal Democrats' response may well be characterized in their own words as "too little and too late." The civil rights record of the entire 84th Congress — including its Northern Democratic members — was described by the CIO report, "Congress '55," as "totally blank."

UNITY WITH DIXIECRATS

The reason for the "blank" in 1955, and the certainty of the same score in 1956 — was made clear by a legislative caucus held by Northern Democrats prior to the reconvening of Congress. At that meeting, reported the Oct. 27 N.Y. Times, the Democratic Senate leaders agreed to "avoid . . . such issues as compulsory civil rights legislation." The reason for this decision was the liberals' determination to maintain unity with the Dixiecrats.

Their sellout on civil rights actually took place the day Congress convened a year ago. They had promised a fight to revise Senate Rule 22 to eliminate Southern filibustering against civil rights bills. The only time such revision can be made is on the opening day of Congress. **That day came and went without one of the liberals lifting a finger to carry out their pledged effort. Thereby, they effectively killed all chances for passage of civil rights legislation throughout the entire term of the 84th Congress.**

Even more disgraceful than the sellout of the liberal Democrats is the conduct of the official leaders of the labor movement. When last Fall, mass indignation against the horrible Mississippi lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Till was at its peak, President Walter Reuther of the United Auto Workers announced that his union and the NAACP would organize a "giant rally" of labor and the Negro people in Washington when Congress reconvened. The rally was to pour on heat for passage of civil rights laws.

WHERE WAS THE RALLY?

Congress opened. But the rally was never held. The project vanished into the same thin air as Reuther's talk. While the liberals cling to the Dixiecrats' coattails, the labor leaders cling to the liberals. That is why the union bureaucrats have refused to put any real pressure on Northern Democrats for delivery on their campaign pledges.

"So Strikes Are Treason!"

"So Strikes Are 'Treason'!" is the way Labor, newspaper of 15 railway unions and the nation's most widely circulated labor paper, headlines the story on Kutcher's Dec. 30 pension hearing in its Jan. 7 issue. VA official Peyton Moss' statement: "If you're going to call strikes in wartime, it's prima facie evidence that you are giving aid and assistance to the enemy," didn't sit well with railroad workers who would all be branded 'traitors' by such a standard. "Moss' shocking declaration amounted to branding a basic American right as a crime . . . a ban on stoppages would be equivalent to involuntary servitude. . . Workers would be compelled to toil for the private profit of a private employer, regardless of how onerous the working conditions might be. . . Yet in trying amputee Kutcher, a high VA official sought to turn advocacy of that basic democratic right (to strike) into an act of treason," said Labor. It called the charges against Kutcher "weird."

The American Way of Life

'What's Good for America. . .'

The benefits of the great American institution of buying on the installment plan are going to be conferred on other countries if U.S. businessmen succeed in working out ways and means.

They're not altogether altruistic about it. Installment buying has worked at home so well that on a per capita basis every man, woman and child in the U.S. is in hock $137. Consumer credit—"miracle working sales wonder" as the Dec. 22 Wall Street Journal puts it—can further expand the market for "shiny American gadgets." The main idea now being worked over is to give the rest of the world a chance to enjoy American products now. And let them pay later.

SOME CATCHES

There are some catches, however. Abroad, "money is less plentiful . . . than in the U.S" and that makes for greater risk. This obstacle can be overcome by stepping up financing charges to say 25% of the cash price of purchase as compared to the 15 to 20% finance charge in the U.S. There's also less ready cash abroad. But that can be met by making the down payment smaller.

In Egypt, for example, a pearly white General Electric refrigerator is advertised at 288 Egyptian pounds ($777) including the finance charges. The down payment is only one pound ($2.88). The payments go for 38 months. A further inducement is a free "magic ten piastre token," entitling the buyer to a discount of from two to five per cent on the next appliance he buys.

The marketing manager of the international division of Avco Manufacturing Corp. claims that the introduction of the installment plan accounts for "practically all" of a recent increase in Crosley refrigerator sales in Venezuela, "a good 50% of the increases in radio sales in Mexico and television sets in Cuba.

In Brazil the American way of buying seems to be going over big. On-the-cuff sales "accounted for 62%" of the automobiles chalked up there by one of Detroit's biggest auto producers.

However, the foreign installment buying bonanza may prove to be only a will-o'-the-wisp.

With the installment plan also goes the collection plan and if that's not successful, then the repossession plan. And although U.S. manufacturers are willing to extend credit terms to foreign distributors, few will take the risk of financing foreign retailers, "let alone individual consumers."

"There are some good reasons why American companies don't want to become embroiled in financing foreign consumers more directly," says Walter Diamond, economist for McGraw-Hill International. "For one thing they don't care to pour dollars into countries where they may later be unable to pull them out again."

For another thing, laws in many countries often make repossession actions difficult and costly. "There aren't many places outside the U.S. where you can put up a bond and immediately repossess the merchandise."

Still worse, people in other countries haven't yet got the American habit of greeting bill collectors with installment payment in hand. As a matter of fact, collecting installments in other lands can be unpleasant—for the collector.

In Central America, for instance, a businessman, "dangerous when drunk," always keeps a loaded pistol on his desk, "presumably to greet bill collectors and other unwelcome visitors." He has already killed two people. A credit agency lists him as a risk.

But Big Business is hopeful that the problems will yield to American ingenuity and know how. In fact, in a cause as worthy as this one, the problems must yield. Their aim is to spread America's "miracle working sales wonder," because, as they see it, what's good for American business surely must be good for the rest of the world.

—Reba Aubrey

The Star Chamber

By Robert Chester

"Do you know that you are the first man in this country to be accused of treason at an administrative hearing . . . without jury or witness . . . that your trial here marks the first reintroduction of the Star Chamber in a treason case this side of the Atlantic?" With these words, John Silard, counsel for James Kutcher at the Dec. 30 hearing before the Veterans Administration central committee on forfeitures, began his questioning of the legless veteran.

The Star Chamber dates back to Medieval England. In those days the Council of the King, sitting in the "starred chamber at Westminster" examined those accused of crimes too great to be tried by ordinary courts. There was no jury. Torture was often used to gain confessions.

As the king's agency it allowed no appeal. These Star Chamber trials became especially numerous and hateful in times of intense political struggle between the absolute monarchy and the people.

One of the celebrated cases in British history is that of John Lilburne, renowned pamphleteer, who became leader of the democratic faction — the Levellers — in the Puritan Revolution of 1640-49. Lilburne was charged in 1637 with having imported certain "heretical" and "seditious" books and haled before King Charles I's Star Chamber. When Lilburne refused to knuckle under to his inquisitors he was condemned to be publicly whipped and pilloried. He was then kept in jail until he paid a heavy fine.

Mass protests, combined with the support of Oliver Cromwell — who was to become the most prominent leader of the Puritan Revolution — finally won his freedom. Lilburne then filed a petition with Parliament, and, in 1641, won a historic decision that his sentence had been "illegal and against the liberty of the subject." He was awarded a huge indemnity of 3,000 pounds sterling.

FAIR TRIAL PRINCIPLE

Under pressure of the ascending stages of the Puritan Revolution, Parliament abolished the Star Chamber in 1640 on the grounds that its methods were not in accordance with "due process of law." This act established the principle that every accused — no matter what the offense — was to get a fair trial based on testimony of witnesses or by other material evidence presented in open court, where it could be subjected to cross-examination.

These legal concepts became part of the English Common Law and were brought to this country by the colonists. However, even prior to the Puritan Revolution, American settlers were battling for procedural rights similar to those being demanded in England. And the battle continued up to the American Revolution. In his book, The Fifth Amendment Today, Dean Erwin N. Griswold of the Harvard Law School cites several examples of this struggle for democratic rights in early American history.

Thus in one famous case in 1637, involving the dissident Massachusetts preachers Anne Hutchinson and John Wheelright, the latter "demanded whether he be sent for as an innocent, or as guilty? It was answered neither, but as suspected only; Then he demanded, who were his accusers? It was answered, his (i.e. Wheelright's own) Sermon; . . . being acknowledged by himself they might thereupon proceed, **ex-officio:** at this word great exception was taken, as if the Court intended the course of the High Commission." The High Commission, Griswold notes, was the Star Chamber.

"WHO ARE MY ACCUSERS?"

In 1689, William Bradford, a printer, was summoned before the Governor and Council of the Province of Pennsylvania for printing the charter of the provinces so that people could see their rights. When the Council accused him of printing without a license and demanded a confession, Bradford retorted, "Governor, I desire to know my accusers, I think it very hard to be put upon accusing myself." After further charges he emphasized the point. "Let me know my accusers and I shall know the better how to make my defense."

These instances in colonial American history of struggles against government high-handedness, led to the addition of a Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution. These make up the first ten amendments. The now famous Fifth Amendment was written specifically to compel the government to observe those rules of procedure, so bitterly fought for in earlier struggles for democratic rights.

Besides the Bill of Rights, the body of the Constitution itself rigidly defines treason and provides that no one should be convicted of treasonous conduct "unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court." (Article III, Section 3.)

The Dec. 30 Kutcher hearing in Washington is part of a new phase of struggle against arbitrary governmental procedure. Basing themselves on faceless informers, making the rules as they go along, the witch hunters are trying to turn back the clock of history. McCarthy, Eastland and now Peyton H. Moss, chairman at the Kutcher hearing, have reintroduced the Star Chamber in modern dress.

NEW TORTURE MEANS

The present-day emulators of King Charles I of England's methods do not use the rack to torture a witness into confessing "guilt." They use the power of security checks, "loyalty" firings and slanted publicity to try to drive the victim to his knees through economic pressure.

When Kutcher stood up against these bludgeoning procedures and demanded to face his accusers, he had behind him three centuries of precedent. The right to a fair trial was won through long, hard and bitter struggle. It will not be yielded to the witch hunters.

Tops in Canada

Chinese-Canadian, Normie Kwong, 26, was selected as Canada's outstanding athlete by sports writers and sportscasters. He is a professional football player on the Edmonton Eskimos team.

U.S. Government And Monopolies

By Shirley Clark

MONOPOLY IN AMERICA. The Government as Promoter. By Walter Adams and Horace M. Gray. Macmillan Company, N. Y., 221 pp., $3.50.

As indicated by its title, this book gives a partial picture of the role the government plays in shaping U.S. economy. Big Business gets the benefit. Monopoly in production is fostered. Campaigners for the Democratic Party will probably use the work as a source material in 1956.

The authors hope that a major change in federal policy can reverse the trend toward monopoly of the last decade and a half, that Marx's prognostication of increasing centralization as the basic trend of capitalist economy need not be the course that history must take. **However, the picture they draw of the status of monopoly today proves that life at least, if not the wishes of some capitalist economists, verifies instead of refutes the views of Marx, the founder of scientific socialism.**

SOCIALIST AMMUNITION

The presentation of some of the technical ways in which the government has put the resources of the United States at the disposal of the privileged few in the Big Business circles, will be of greater help to the socialist agitators in the 1956 election than to the politicians in the middle-class or trade union bureaucracy. Socialists will not have to square the reality of Big Business domination, under Democrats as well as Republicans, with a defense of the capitalist system.

Chapter III deals with the regulatory powers of the federal government in the exploitation of natural resources. Here the authors demonstrate that the prime concern of the federal government has not been so much the ostensible task of conserving resources as it has been to regulate prices in behalf of Big Business.

The government uses its regulatory powers to conserve the lush profits of oil, natural gas, mineral and other interests but very little to conserve the natural resources in question.

In this chapter is also treated monopolization in transport, in radio and TV. "As of 1954, two AM networks — NBC and CBS—accounted for 65 per cent of all radio network business, CBS having 40 per cent and NBC 25 per cent," the authors point out. As far as TV is concerned, these same two companies "control some 85 per cent of the total television business — CBS 45 per cent and NBC 40 per cent."

Add this to the fact that over the span of the last 25 years "94 per cent of American cities and 18 states did not have competing newspapers," as the authors point out in the last chapter. Then one gets an idea of how monopolized is the dispensing of news.

Chapters IV through VII deal with the tax and expenditure policies of the government, "defense" contracts, disposal of surplus war plants and legislation on atomic energy. In each of these spheres government aid to Big Business at the expense of the small capitalist is proved.

The book is well worth studying despite the fact that the picture of government service to the monopolists is far from complete as the authors admit. The whole foreign aid program at the taxpayer's expense is developed primarily to provide spheres of capital investment and markets for Big Business.

An objective consideration of the material presented by the authors, however, must bring the conclusion that the federal government which is supposed to represent the majority in the U.S., actually represents a small minority. It operates against the interest of workers, farmers and small busines — against all except the priveleged few. This was so under the Democrats as well as the Republicans.

General Motors Corporation property in Flint is worth close to a billion dollars, but for tax evaluation purposes is assessed at $111 million or about one seventh its actual value according to Norman Bully, Flint CIO council president.

UAW STRIKE SOLIDARITY WINS SQUARE D LOCAL

DETROIT, Jan. 6—The membership of the local union at the Square D plant here, veterans of the hard-fought strike to save their union in the summer and fall of 1954, have voted to disaffiliate with the independent United Electrical Workers and to join Local 351 of the UAW-AFL-CIO.

Local 351 was one of the first UAW locals to come to the aid of the embattled Square D workers when their picket line was being smashed by the Detroit police early in September. The isolated and besieged local union was under strong red-baiting attack by the local press. Without the dramatic and timely support of UAW locals, the powerful Ford local 600 among them, the Square D strike would have been destroyed.

With the aquisition of the Square D workers, Amalgamated local 351, whose president is Paul Silver, will more than double its size.

Significantly, all previous attempts to get the Square D workers out of the UE and into the IUE-CIO had relied heavily on red-baiting, and had all failed completely. It was the attraction of the powerful UAW in the Detroit area and mass help on the picket line—in short, strike solidarity — which brought the Square D workers into the fold of the AFL-CIO.

Witch Hunt in Manhattan -- Mid-Summer, 1741

By Henry Gitano

EYLAND MANATUS, 1741 — Fourteen victims were chained to the stake and burned alive, 22 were hung, and 70 deported, while 144 men and women were jammed into the small prison during this year's "Summer of Suspicion" from May 11 to Aug. 29 in this town with its population of 10,000, one-fifth Negro slaves.

The previous winter, a Spanish pirate vessel was captured and brought into this port, its crew was sold into slavery at auction. J. T. Headley reports that they "became very intractable, and in spite of floggings they received, uttered threats that they knew would reach their master's ears."

Headley observed that slave-owners "felt half the time as though walking on the crust of a volcano." The most stringent measures taken to prevent slaves from assembling, were to no avail. Restive under their bondage and confined to a narrow space, they maintained contact with one another and with crews of incoming ships.

PANIC BEGINS

On March 18, the governor's house in the fort caught fire. Fanned by a fierce south-east wind, the flames spread rapidly. Within three weeks, eight more fires broke out. Some declared that the Spanish slaves had set the buildings on fire. Others believed it was a plot of the Negro slaves to burn the entire city. Local authorities interrogating a Spanish sailor were dissatisfied with his answers, whereupon the entire crew was imprisoned.

Faced with proud slaves who were rebellious and a series of fires, this Island was engulfed by hysterical fear. A woman called Earle stepped into the panic, stating she had observed three servants along Broadway, one of whom cried out: "Fire, fire, scorch, scorch, a little damn by and by!" Then, Earle testified, the men laughed in an odd way and the speaker threw up his hands as though communicating with the Evil One.

Forthwith all "suspicious" persons carying bundles were stopped and searched. Since nothing incriminating could be found and nobody was seen setting fires, the town government intensified its hunt. The militia was called out, slaves were arrested in mass and hurriedly imprisoned. A reward of one hundred pounds was offered with a full pardon, to anyone who would confess or implicate others.

On April 21, the Supreme Court of the region met, judges Adolphus Philipse and Daniel Horsmandin presiding. A jury was impaneled. Though there was a plentiful supply of prisoners, there was no evidence. The reward had not borne any fruit.

Mary Burton, an imprisoned slave was brought before the grand jury, but refused to be sworn in. After being threatened with death, she "confessed" to crimes that had no bearing on the fires. Her master, John Hughson, had permitted stolen goods to be taken by Peggy Carey, one of his tenants.

The authorities persisted and prodded Burton till she came up with the "evidence" they wanted. A great conspiracy of servants and slaves. Negroes and whites had organized to demolish Eyland Manatus by fire, and massacre all inhabitants; Hughson planned to become the new governor.

Twenty days after the court convened, two servants were taken out to a fresh water pond and hung. A writer for C.S. Francis and Co. stated that during this period, "proclamations were made offering pardons to the free who should make a discovery of the plot, or accuse others; and pardon and liberty to the slaves who should do the same, and rewards in money to both . . . What one poor wretch invented, was heard and repeated by another; and by degrees the story assumed the shape of a regular plot."

A servant named Cuff decided to prolong his own life by implicating another servant, Quack. Others testified that both Cuff and Quack were the real culprits. The sentence of death called for burning at the stake. The terrified men were chained to the stakes twenty yards apart, with fagots piled chest-high.

Both men in desperation cried out that they had additional information to reveal. The executioner ordered them unchained. After discussing the advisability of returning them to prison, the sheriff prevailed that die they must according to plan. The trembling men were again chained, the kindling wood piled around them and the torch was applied.

Headley describes the atmosphere: "No lawyer was found bold enough to step forward and defend these poor wretches, but all volunteered their services to aid the government in bringing them to punishment . . . This little town was wholly given to panic, and a nameless dread of some mysterious awful fate. Proceedings were all dignified and solemn, as became an English court, yet the course the trial took showed how utterly unbalanced and one-sided it had become."

TURNABOUT WITNESS

Mary Burton, finding herself a heroine, came up with ever more imaginative accusations. Peggy Carey after being condemned, turned state's evidence. Because her confession did not secure the promised pardon, she retracted everything and admitted fabricating stories—stories which had caused the arrest of more victims.

Edward R. Snow relates that: "scores of persons were so frightened that they began to accuse their neighbors before their neighbors could accuse them. One servant to escape execution himself, implicated fourteen others, all of whom were executed except for still another confessor, who in turn implicated another large group who were likewise sent to their death."

The city jails became overcrowded, forcing judges to summarily decide between execution and pardon to make room for new victims. A number of those arrested declared that they confessed guilt for themselves and others because they were told, it was the only way to save their own lives.

Mary Burton becoming overconfident fingered people of wealth and influence. The authorities quite suddenly remembered glaring irregularities in her accusations and stopped the executions. Proceedings were brought to an abrupt halt. Mary Burton was given her one hundred pounds and left town.

* * *

The dateline is 1741. Eyland Manatus was the early Dutch name for New York City. Sources referred to are: (1) Headley, J. T. — The Great Riots of New York 1712 to 1873, N.Y., E. B. Treat 1873. (2) A Picture of New York, N.Y., C. S. Francis & Co. 1848. (3) Snow, Edward R. —Secrets of the North Atlantic Islands, N.Y., Dodd, Mead & Co. 1960.

Both Headley and Snow, writing 77 years apart, attribute this reign of terror to human nature; a product of man's weakness ever since the world began, to continue until the end of time. Yet they admit that the slave owners were treading on a volcano, knowing that the slaves wanted to break out of their bondage. Thus the real cause for the summer madness of 1741 was the attempt to maintain the oppression of slaves.

Today, like two centuries ago, the witch hunt is used by the ruling class to impose subservience. Appearing massive and powerful, American capitalism knows that it's treading on a volcano. The witch hunt with its subversive lists, stables of informers for hire, millions of files with derogatory information, blacklisting, and hounding of militant workers, will not save a system that is deathly afraid of a challenge on the battlefield of ideas.

One Defendant Freed in Ohio Smith Act Trial

CLEVELAND, Jan. 8 — U.S. District Judge Charles J. McNamee last Thursday ordered the release of David Katz, one of the 11 Ohio Communist Party leaders on trial here for the past ten weeks under the Smith Act.

Katz, a former Cleveland bakery driver and the husband of another defendant, is the third person to be freed by a judge of the more than a hundred Communist Party leaders throughout the country brought to trial on conspiracy charges since 1949. One has been cleared by a jury.

Judge McNamee, in acquitting Katz, ruled there was insufficient evidence against him to give his case to the jury. **His admitted membership in the party and attendance at meetings is thus acknowledged as inadequate to prove conspiracy to advocate the violent overthrow of the government, as charged by government prosecutors.**

Judge McNamee's action followed argument by defense counsel for a directed verdict of acquittal.

The trial is scheduled to continue with the introduction of defense witnesses this week.

. . . Kutcher Fights for His Job

(Continued from page 1)

ruling in the pension case exposes the arbitrary character of Kutcher's dismissal in 1948 from his VA job. The Administration presented the same kind of trumped-up "evidence" and warped police-mind logic in depriving Kutcher of his job as it did in its try to take away his pension.

That is why the N. Y. Post stated editorially on Jan. 10, "Now that Kutcher has won this round, we beseech the U.S. government to abandon its long campaign of harassment against him — a campaign that began . . . with his dismissal from a Veterans Administration job and includes a current attempt to evict him from the public housing project in which he lives."

A survey of the press from coast to coast shows clearly why the witch hunters retreated from their attempt to take away Kutcher's pension. Judging by their stories of the "hearing" the reporters were generally sympathetic to Kutcher's side and hostile to the witch hunters. The legless vet won backing with his courageous defense of his beliefs and his rights. His attorney, Rauh, demonstrated clearly to all the newspapermen the illegality of the VA's attempt at a treason trial.

"Legless war veteran James Kutcher got a hearing yesterday," said staff reporter Murrey Marder in the Dec. 31 Washington Post, ". . . but the conduct of the hearing itself was attacked as a denial of his fundamental rights. Before it ended . . . the press saw a type of proceeding unlike anything that has come into public view.

"In this hearing," Marder continued, "there were no rules of procedure, no witnesses (except for the accused, Kutcher), nor any facts to back up the charges against him except the charges themselves. 'I'll make the rules as we go along,' said Peyton H. Moss. . ."

"Legless Veteran Sticks to Socialist Beliefs Despite Pension Threat," is how the Philadelphia Inquirer headlined its Dec. 31 Associated Press story of the Kutcher hearing. Many other newspapers prominently featured this phase of the testimony. Kutcher's principled stand was also witnessed by the public in one of the nation-wide TV sequences of the hearing.

It was public indignation which forced the VA to retreat step by step in its attack on Kutcher's pension from the time the N. Y. Post broke the story on Dec. 23. Six hours after the Post hit the streets, the VA announced that Kutcher would retain his pension until after the administrative hearing. Originally, the disabliity pension stood suspended as of Nov. 30.

Again, it was the N. Y. Post publicity for Kutcher's demand that he be given an open hearing — a demand supported by Sen. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.) and other Congressmen — that forced the VA to grant the first public administrative hearing in the witch hunt's history.

Finally, Kutcher's case roused such nation-wide protest that the government witch hunters retreated in this latest attack and restored the pension.

The victory scored in the Kutcher pension case should inspire the mobilization of forces to carry the seven-year struggle to complete victory. It should also arouse mass support on behalf of all witch-hunt victims. In particular, civil liberties defenders should fight to win back the disability pensions of Robert Thompson and Saul Wellman, Communist Party leaders railroaded to prison under the Smith "Gag" Act. Their pensions were taken away by the same kind of bludgeoning procedure as the government intended to use on James Kutcher, before public indignation stayed its hand.

. . . SEN. EASTLAND

(Continued from page 1)

Leon Kamin and Louis Weinstock.

Taylor had been included in the frameup of the late Harry Dexter White. Along with White he was branded by a government board as a "Communist spy." After seven years, a new government board finally announced that Taylor had cleared himself of the charge to their satisfaction. Taylor's attorney is now asking U.S. Attorney General Brownell to apologize for calling Taylor a "subversive."

Kamin, a Harvard professor had been indicted for contempt of Congress for balking at questions of McCarthy's committee. In dismissing the final contempt charge against him, a federal judge ruled, Jan. 5, that in its questioning of Kamin the committee had gone "beyond the scope of its power."

On the same day the Court of Appeals in Washington reversed the perjury conviction of former Painters Union official and Smith Act victim Louis Weinstock. Weinstock had been framed on the perjury charge for denying membership on a committee which no longer existed. The federal court threw out the conviction on a technicality.

While such decisions are certainly welcome they are far from sufficient, as Eastland is currently demonstrating, to put an end to the drive against civil liberties and civil rights. Nothing less than a powerful independent political movement of labor and the Negro people can accomplish that necessary task.

THE CASE OF THE LEGLESS VETERAN

His fight for his job and civil rights

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THE MILITANT
Published Weekly in the Interests of the Working People
THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION
116 University Pl., N. Y. 3, N. Y. Phone: AL 5-7460
Editor: MURRY WEISS
Business Manager: ANNE CHESTER

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent The Militant's policies. These are expressed in its editorials.

"Entered as second class matter March 7, 1944 at the Post Office at New York, N.Y., under the act of March 3, 1879."

Vol. XX — No. 3 Monday, January 16, 1956

. . . The Fight Continues!

(Continued from page 1)

of the power to decide pension payments on a political ground. But it was forced to retreat. That is a beginning.

Furthermore, the VA was forced to continue payment of the pension until the hearing had been held and a decision reached. This knocks a hole into what has become the common practice of the government witch hunters — punishing first then deciding on "guilt" later.

Still another important, though partial victory was the fact that the hearing was opened to the press, radio and TV. The witch hunters have conducted their administrative hearings in the dark, making up the rules as they go along. The prosecutor acts as judge and jury.

The fact that the door was forced open in Kutcher's case does not mean that secret star chamber hearings have been abandoned. The VA did not disclaim the procedure as such. It merely exercised its dictatorial power to open the door when the issue got to hot to handle in the usual conspiratorial way. But it gave the American people a good enough look into the nature of these secret inquisitions to shame the nation. Star chamber sessions will not be taken for granted in the future.

The decision of this prosecutor-judge-jury committee in effect admitted that the testimony of secret informers was not as reliable as that of a man who testifies under oath for all to hear, question and check.

But more important than anything else is the fact that Kutcher's fight has become known to tens of millions of people. Big Business parties in power, anxious to stay there regardless of the means, obviously don't have a sense of justice. But the average person who often gets booted around by those on top is concerned about justice. Full victory for Kutcher will lie with the American people.

Kutcher understood this when he first lost his job in 1948. Then he took his fight to the labor movement, the organizations of the minority people, to the students and professors, to the scientists and the artists. The fight in those days was not front page news. But over two million people protested the government's treatment of Kutcher and demanded that he be given his job back.

Kutcher had to tour the country a number of times. He knocked on thousands of doors and spoke to all who would listen. Those who listened didn't like what they heard. They gave aid to Kutcher's fight.

The VA would like to close the Kutcher case for the time being. They would like to leave the legless veteran thrown out of his job, blacklisted, without his day in court, without a hearing for his party.

But Kutcher and his friends will not allow that. Kutcher is not fighting a "hardship" case. He has said many times: "The significant thing about my case is not that I lost my legs but that I lost my rights."

In Kutcher's case the whole administrative and "legal" structure of the witch hunt is at issue. The "subversive" list, the Smith Act, and the entire edifice that has been built to transform non-conformist ideas into crimes.

That's why the Kutcher Civil Rights Committee is absolutely right in deciding to redouble its efforts as a result of the victory in the pension fight. With a complete victory in Kutcher's fight for his job, the witch hunt will be dealt a staggering blow and America will owe a debt of deep gratitude to the legless veteran who stood up and fought through the darkest years of our history.

18 Million "Security" Suspects

The scope of popular protest and indignation that swept the country over the Veterans Administration's attempt to deprive James Kutcher of his disability pension surprised not only the VA officials; even those who have been actively engaged in the fight to restore Kutcher's rights since he lost his job in 1948 did not expect such a widespread, emphatic reaction of disapproval of the witch hunt.

One important clue to understanding this popular feeling is the simple fact that Kutcher has become representative of a large segment of the population of the U.S.

Just consider. One out of every four working Americans is on some kind of a government blacklist according to Henry Paynter in the January issue of Bluebook magazine. Senator Hennings of Missouri, who heads the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, said Dec. 10 that testimony before his committee revealed that the Civil Service Commission alone keeps files of derogatory information (compiled from neighborhood gossip, newspaper clippings, professional informers, and other such sources) on some two million Americans. Paynter estimates that in the more than 70 government agencies engaged in this practice, there are at least 18 million such files.

These figures reveal the startling scope of the witch hunt today.

Take all those who have lost their jobs, all those stigmatized by suspicion, all those deprived of professional opportunity; add those who must speak, teach or write conformist banalities for fear of becoming suspect; add the relatives and the friends of these victims; and we see there are literally millions of Americans chafing under the thought-control yoke and looking for some way to lift its weight off their backs.

These are the most direct victims. We must also take into account the millions who indirectly, yet keenly, feel the oppressive atmosphere of the witch hunt and are eager to see it done away with.

Every mass need finds its focus sooner or later in some issue or personality. The Kutcher case has become such an issue, and Kutcher such a personality.

To be sure a number of dramatic cases have precipitated widespread protest in recent months. These have involved cases of mistaken identity, guilt by blood, or even prominent witch hunters themselves who have been caught up in the bureaucratic foul-up of the thought-control drive.

Such excesses are part and parcel of the witch-hunt atmosphere, and they have the quality of making a lot of people angry, but each such case loses its significance as it is straightened out.

What is unique is that a movement of widespread protest has developed around a case which poses the most fundamental issues of the witch hunt.

The Till Murder Confession

Everyone knows that Negroes are denied their right to vote in the South, that a reign of terror exists there which murdered a boy of 14 in Mississippi. President Eisenhower has brazenly described this shameful fact as an "allegation" that should be "investigated." What does the President now have to say about the Jan. 24 issue of Look magazine which publishes a full confession of the murder of Emmett Louis Till by J. W. Milam?

Look magazine, in a copyright article, directly quotes the killer as follows: "I just decided it was time a few people got put on notice. As long as I live and can do anything about it, niggers are going to stay in their place. Niggers ain't gonna vote where I live. If they did, they'd control the government. They ain't gonna go to school with my kids. And when a nigger even gets close to mentioning sex with a white woman, he's tired of livin'. I'm likely to kill him."

Look magazine, which declares that it is ready to document its story in court if necessary, then quotes Milam as telling young Till just before he put a bullet in his head, "Chicago boy, I'm tired of 'em sending your kind down here to stir up trouble. Goddam you, I'm going to make an example of you — just so everybody will know how me and my folks stand."

This foul product of the Jim Crow system accomplished his purpose. He did make known to everyone — including the federal government — how he and his "kind" stand. His kind rallied to the support of the killer and his brother. A "trial" was quickly staged and in 67 minutes a jury acquitted them. A grand jury, hearing the charge of kidnaping Till, refused even to indict them despite their confession of guilt. The Southern racists demonstrated beyond question where they stand. The sensational revelation in Look again raises point blank the question of where does the U.S. government stand.

A lone journalist went down to Mississippi and got the full story of the murder of Emmett Till and got it right from the killer's mouth. Can anyone believe that the mighty U.S. government with its vast "crime detection" apparatus could not do as well? The blunt fact is that they could but they refused to act.

The confession of this degenerate child-killer constitutes a full-scale indictment of everyone who aids and abets the murderous Jim Crow system. That includes a President and a Justice Department that refuses to act against the racists in the face of publicly proclaimed violations of the U.S. constitution. It includes the Democratic leaders in Congress who will not enact legislation against Jim Crow for the sake of their alliance with the white supremacists.

Milam is reported to have given his ugly confessions to Look for $10,000. Apparently he wasn't worried about where the government stands.

Chilean Labor Movement in Mortal Danger

By Myra Tanner Weiss

JAN. 10 — A general strike throughout Chile began yesterday despite the arrest of about 250 unionists, Jan. 6, including the head of the Central Labor Union (CUT), Clotario Blest. Baudillo Casanova, General Secretary of the CUT, went into hiding and announsed defiantly that the strike would take place as scheduled. The nation-wide strike was called by the Chilean unions to protest anti-labor legislation that was passed by Congress.

Last Thursday, Jan. 5, Pres. Carlos Ibanez adjourned Congress and declared a "state of seige" which put an automatic ban on public meetings, subjected the press and radio to censorship and authorized police to search homes and make arrests without warrants.

HUNGER DECREE

The law that was passed by Congress would limit all wage increases granted in public and private employment to 50% of the increase in the cost of living index. This would throw the whole burden of one of the world's worst inflations onto the workers. Union spokesmen declared that hunger would stalk the nation.

Ibanez cancelled all military leaves and ordered into the capital four army regiments and a navy force of 500 to swell the military force of Santiago to 30,000. This armed strength combined with Ibanez' police power was mobilized to smash the workers' protest strike.

Interior Minister Benjamin Videlo said in a radio broadcast that the general strike call constituted "an attempt against public order and the nation's security." He also made the charge that "international communism" was trying to incite the nation, **as if a cut in the workers' living standards, low as they already are, were not incitement enough.**

Since the strike began most of the U.S. press has blacked out news on its progress. The N. Y. Times correspondent today quoted a government official to the effect that the strike was a failure on its first day. But the Times correspondent admitted that the majority of Santiago's sanitation workers were out and some plants were affected. In addition 8,000 coal miners went out in southern Chile and 6,000 copper workers struck.

The labor movement of Chile through long and militant struggles over the past fifteen years won the principle that wages should be tied to the cost of living. This did not mean an improvement in living standards. It merely helped to keep the standard of living at its meager subsistence level. How necessary this defensive struggle has been can be seen in the fact that the cost of living rose 88% last year.

U. S. "EXPERTS"

Following the 24-hour general strike last July 7, so-called economic experts from U.S. corporations went to Chile to "advise" the government on anti-inflation measures. The new wage-cutting law was drafted on the advice of these U.S. "experts."

It is not unlikely that these U.S. advisors also suggested the witch-hunt technique of handling the inevitable opposition of the unions to the new law. In any event the blanket charge of "international communism" as the inspirer of opposition to Ibanez' hunger edict comes from one of the final chapters in the textbook for police dictatorships. The labor bureaucracy in the U.S. should study well how the "subversion" charge is being used in Chile.

Interviewed in prison, Senor Blest answered the charge of communism by pointing out that the walkout was "strictly economic and not a political move." In this answer of the head of the Chilean labor movement is contained the explanation for the tragic frustration of the Chilean working class. A political struggle is precisely what is needed to solve the economic crisis of Chile.

Blest and the CUT have been tied up in a political alliance with the capitalist class. They have supported the regime of Ibanez that now imprisons them. Because of this alliance, the labor bureaucracy has refused to take an independent road toward political power. Yet the only solution to the economic crisis lies in the formation of a workers government and the organization of a planned economy.

The history of the last fifteen years demonstrates conclusively that the capitalist class cannot solve this crisis except at the expense of the workers and peasants. Leaving the problem in the hands of this class can only lead to the eventual destruction of the Chilean labor movement.

But could the Chilean working class take power? Wouldn't the U.S. do everything in its power to prevent such a solution? A workers' government in Chile would mean an end to U.S. exploitation of the rich copper mines and other sources of lush profits in Chile. Furthermore it would be a signal for a struggle for emancipation from Wall Street's domination throughout Latin America.

One has only to glance at the events of Guatemala in 1954. There a capitalist government that was merely liberal enough to permit the workers to organize and fight for decent wages from U.S. imperialists like the United Fruit Co. was overthrown with the help of the U.S. State Department. A brutal police dictatorship was put into power.

But this quick victory of reaction in Guatemala was made possible precisely because the labor bureaucracy and the Stalinists were afraid to mobilize the people for defense of their liberty. They relied on the liberal capitalists. They hoped that reforms would be permitted. The consequence of this policy was death and prison for many, and virtual slavery for the rest.

Strikes, as costly as they are to the workers, are necessary and often unavoidable at certain stages in the development of the class struggle. But if under conditions of acute social crisis they are not a means of mobilizing the class for a final solution to the problems of the workers, they eventually exhaust the fighting strength of the working class. When that happens the door is open for the capitalists to completely smash the labor movement.

The Chilean labor movement is not alone. It has many allies that can and will come to its aid. All of Latin America is tired of being bled dry by the avaricious power of Wall Street. The colonial people in the Western hemisphere are inspired by the struggle for freedom in Asia and Africa.

Cops Club Student in Athens

One cop swings a club at a Greek student while another in background gets ready to join the fight. Police brutality in Athens is aimed at breaking up an anti-British demonstration over the Cyprus issue.

"Nightmare in Red"

By Roy Gale

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 28— The History of the Russian Revolution and its degeneration under Stalin was presented last night on television. A one-hour program called, "Nightmare in Red" tried to cover this immense era in history and sum it up with the formula: "Bolshevism equals Stalinism." This is an old chestnut which has been roasted many times in many different forms.

Last night the form was a "documentary film" that purported to show how a revolution went wrong and degenerated into a "Nightmare in Red." The film was very effectively done. The editor used films from every source he could find on the Russian revolution and the developing Soviet State. He then chose what he wanted and wove into the background a commentary on the film.

Those who have seen such classics as "Ten Days That Shook The World," "From Tsar to Lenin," and others, will see old familiar scenes but will be astonished by the commentary attached to them. Aside from the use of old documentaries the rest of the film seemed to be newsreel scenes of the Thirties and battle scenes from World War II. By substituting a different commentary, or none at all, it is a film that could be appreciated by all who know the real history of the Russian Revolution and the rise of Stalinism.

TRUTH IS STRONGER

Truth is stronger than fiction. And in this case the fiction, in the form of the commentary, stands out in bold relief. No one who saw the film would doubt the necessity of the Russian Revolution. The parasitic and petty lives of the Czar and the court are shown by such pass-times as roller skating on the decks of the Royal Yacht, dancing at balls, and lavish pomp and ceremony in the midst of a country of starving workers and peasants.

The revolution was on the order of the day and no one could stem the surging tide. This is one positive side of the film. It did not try to gloss over the fact that revolution had to come. What was tried, as many before have tried, is to make the viewers believe that the vacilating and incompetent Kerensky government could have worked out a democratic republic if only the Bolsheviks had not carried out a coup d'etat.

What the producers of "Nightmare" failed to show is that the real situation, following the overthrow of Czarism, was one of dual power—the Soviets (workers' councils) versus a capitalist provisional government. The Russian capitalists opposed the revolution from the beginning. When they were thrust into power by the right-wing socialists, they were concerned with only one objective—how to crush the revolution and restore power to the landlords, factory owners and Czarist generals. When the Bolsheviks raised the slogan "all power to the Soviets" they only expressed the determination of the Russian people to carry through their revolution to the end and win land, peace and bread. Only the Soviet power was able to repel foreign imperialist intervention and Czarist counter revolution.

When Lenin and Trotsky took the leadership of the revolution they had to start from scratch. The old army of the Czar had disintegrated. It was not equipped to fight a civil war. Trotsky built the new Red Army, using the Red Guards of the revolution as a base when the new Soviet State was forced to fight for its very life. The old forces of Czarism organized in the White Army and aided by imperialist interventionists forced the young workers state to fight a terrible civil war to maintain their revolutionary gains. Here all the power and sacrifice of the workers comes out in full force. Never before in history had a people risen from abject defeat suffered in an imperialist war, thrown off the age-old chains of slavery, formed a revolutionary government, and in the heat of battle forged a new army to beat off the sustained attack of the rest of the world. No commentary, however much it lies about the real course of history, can ever refute the facts of a new revolutionary nation born from the ashes of the old.

RISE OF STALIN

From the Civil War, the film moves on to the New Economic Policy, the collectivization of the peasants, the development of industry, and the rise of Stalin. In this section of the film an attempt is made to compare conditions under the new workers state to the worst atrocities of Czarism. Here the real point of the film begins to emerge: the revolution achieved nothing but misery and Bolshevism equals Stalinism. The workers revolution, the commentary preaches, will always lead to the enslavement of the workers. There is no other path for the revolution to take than degeneration into a brutal dictatorship of one man or a party — a "nightmare in red."

This is the way the capitalist propagandists hope to save themselves from a world in revolutionary ferment. Don't overthrow capitalism, they say, for you will only get something far worse.

The technique of this propaganda is quite simple: lump together the revolutionary action of the workers and peasants with the subsequent rise of a privileged bureaucracy which undermines the achievements of the revolution; ignore the vast accomplishments of the Soviet regime which tore Russia out of medieval backwardness and made it the second industrial power in the world capable of withstanding and defeating the onslaught of Nazi Germany in World War II.

The same kind of propaganda is directed against unionism in the United States. The open-shop interests never miss an opportunity to scream about the bureaucrats and racketeers who control the unions at present. They identify unionism with the practices, privileges and crimes of this bureaucracy. But they haven't succeeded in stopping the growth of unions with this propaganda. The workers understand that only they can get rid of the bureaucrats and rebuild their unions as fighting militant organizations. They know that the bosses are not opposed to the bureaucracy but to unionism itself.

The Russian workers know this too. And so do the Chinese workers and peasants. If their revolution suffered the growth of bureaucratic deformations, they know that only by spreading the revolution and winning the most advanced industrial countries to the socialist path will they overthrow the bureaucrats and forge a socialist brotherhood of man on the basis of the unprecedented productivity made possible by the abolition of capitalism.

World Events

THE FIRST LENINGRAD performance on Christmas night of George Gershwin's opera, Porgy and Bess, was greeted by a ten-minute ovation when the curtain went up. According to the Dec. 29 California Eagle and other U.S. Negro newspapers, the American troupe was the toast of the town. Days before the show, Leningraders were cueing up for tickets in sub-zero weather. Leading Soviet figures as well as U.S. Ambassador Charles Bohlen, were among the 2,300 people in the audience at the Palace of Culture to hear the almost entirely Negro group. The troupe had a two weeks' engagement in Leningrad as part of a tour of the Soviet bloc, which in turn is part of a tour of the world.

* * *

AN ITALIAN POUJADIST movement is in the making, reports Paul Hoffman in the Jan. 7 N.Y. Times. The Jan. 2 election in France of 52 Poujade movement adherents—an incipient fascist grouping based on shopkeepers, artisans and peasants—is inspiring a similar development in Italy. The issue giving rise to this movement is the same in both countries — namely the heavy squeeze that taxes are placing on small proprietors. Tax strikes have been conducted in the last several years in both countries. In Northern Italy, rice-growers and cattle-breeders, both hit by the slump of agricultural prices on the world market, held meetings last week to consider action against taxes and declared they were going to follow the Poujade example. Neo-fascist groups in Rome also hailed the successes of Poujade. Failure of the working class leaders in both countries to conduct a militant line of struggle for socialism has pushed the small proprietors—whose grievances against Big Business-dominated governments are legitimate—into the arms of fascist demagogues.

* * *

ALL ELECTED MOSLEM OFFICIALS IN ALGIERS CITY and region have resigned their posts in a body. In an official release published at their request in the Jan. 6 La Verite, French revolutionary socialist newspaper, these officials give the following reason for their demonstration: "The government of the French Republic instead of . . . recognizing the Algerian personality, has instituted a blind repression and created an atmosphere of war . . . All the prisons of Algeria are packed with arrested Algerians, and veritable concentration camps have been established . . . The national leader, Messali Hadj, remains in exile and deprived—as during the last 20 years—of all liberty."

* * *

IN JORDAN, a new wave of demonstrations swept through all cities on Jan. 7 and 8 against the country's joining the U.S.-sponsored Baghdad military treaty. In the Jordan-administered section of Jerusalem, crowds smashed windows in the American consulate and ripped down the U.S. flag, as they had done in demonstrations three weeks ago. In the capital city of Amman, demonstrators burned American technical aid headquarters. Towns throughout Jordan were hit by general strikes. The British-trained and financed Arab Legion — the armed forces of Jordan—fired rifles and tear gas against their fellow countrymen, killing 11 and wounding 38 according to a dispatch from Syria. The demonstrations came on the heels of a Supreme Court decision voiding elections promised by King Hussein for April, in which the people would have the chance to vote on whether Jordan should join the Baghdad pact (also known as Middle East Treaty Organization). On Jan. 9 huge student demonstrations took place in Damascus and other Syrian cities supporting the Jordanian demonstrators. Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia are opposed to the Baghdad anti-Soviet pact, which includes England, Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Pakistan.

* * *

PRIME MINISTER EDEN'S government in England is coming under increasing attack by the British Labor Party and also by sections of his own Conservative Party. The two main causes of the Tory government's troubles are (1) failure to check inflation and refusal to grant wage increases; (2) the crisis of British imperialism in the Middle East — particularly in connection with the Baghdad treaty —in the face of the rising Arab nationalist movement.

* * *

IN CUBA, popular revolt is mounting against the U.S. Government-backed Batista dictatorship. "During December," reports R. Hart Phillips in the Jan. 8 N. Y. Times, "the island suffered a wave of student disorders with accompanying street fighting with the police, a strike of sugarmill workers attended by riots, sabotage to communication systems, the burning of cane fields and bombings."

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THE MILITANT

VOLUME XX — MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 1956 — NUMBER 3

The Negro Struggle

By Bob Himmel

Wayne Students Hail Georgia Tech Demonstrations

Our hats are off to the students of Georgia Tech. Their militant demonstration against the Governor of Georgia, who tried to cancel their Sugal Bowl game because the opposing football team included a Negro player, is a welcome sign. At the end of a year marked by widespread racist violence against the Negro people, it shows that the Griffins, Milams and Bryants by no means represent the sentiments of all the white people in the South. While the "White Councils" still hold the upper hand in the South, the students of Georgia Tech have given the world unmistakable evidence of new trends, especially among the younger generation, that don't bode well for the future of the Jim Crow system. Students everywhere can draw inspiration from the Georgia Tech example of an effective blow against adult delinquency.

"But," we've heard it said around Wayne campus in Michigan, "let's not exaggerate. After all, they were not demonstrating against the Jim Crow system as such, or even against the principle of segregation. All they were really concerned about was not being denied their Sugar Bowl game. Football, not segregation, was the issue with them. And what's so remarkable about that?"

This objection, in our opinion, misses the whole point. Just as in both Egypt and Israel it is today dangerous and difficult to openly advocate Arab-Jewish labor solidarity, so in the Deep South it is dangerous and difficult to become identified as an open and active opponent of segregation. Unable to get free or frequent expression, anti-Jim Crow sentiment must choose carefully the occasions that are most favorable for its appearance. The Governor's high-handed action provided such an occasion and the students made the most of it. The form was a protest about a football game, the content was a protest against Jim Crow.

But even if we were to grant that "football, not segregation" was the main issue for many and perhaps most of the Georgia Tech students, that still would not detract from the objective significance of their demonstration. It would mean that thousands of Southern white students, indifferent to the segregation issue or even supporters of the Jim Crow system in general, are being driven into active opposition to particular manifestations and forms of that system. Such students may not question the sacredness of segregation in the abstract, or as a matter of principle, but they fight, and very militantly, against concrete Jim Crow actions and patterns that affect them practically and personally. Who can deny that this represents something new, and potentially very revolutionary, in the South?

As a matter of fact, this is the way most of us develop new social and political attitudes — not by first embracing general principles and then adjusting our conduct accordingly, but by finding our personal wants and needs in conflict with existing institutions and customs, and deriving general principles — later on — from the experiences and lessons of such conflicts. That's the route by which many white people are entering the struggle against Jim Crow in the South today. And that's the route by which most Americans will join the fight against the other social and economic evils of capitalism tomorrow.

[Reprinted from the Wayne Socialist, magazine of the Young Socialist Club at Wayne University, January issue. Address: Young Socialist Club, 500 W. Ferry, Detroit, 2, Mich. 15c. per copy. — Ed.]

Notes from the News

AUTO PRODUCTION by General Motors will drop 12% in 1956 according to GM president Harlow H. Curtice. Henry Ford 2nd said Jan. 9 that his company was up against the "stiffest kind of competition" and that 1956 was not likely to be as good a year as 1955 in the automobile business.

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THE WORD "COP" has an "unsavory connotation," says J. Edgar Hoover. "I abhor the word in reference to members of our profession... (it is) degrading to law enforcement and the stature it has achieved through long years of dedication to responsibility." — New York Times, Jan. 8.

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"COP ARRESTED as leader in $360 armed holdup." — Headline in New York Post, Jan. 8.

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FEDERAL SURPLUS FOODS are now to be distributed to needy in New York state under a plan similar to that in 36 other states. This demand was carried to Washington by a non-partisan delegation of 10 women from Buffalo headed by Dorothy Haines, SWP candidate for State Senator in the 55th district, during the widespread unemployment last winter.

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SCREENING OF MARITIME WORKERS by the U.S. Coast Guard has been carried out by unconstitutional methods according to a decision by the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals last October. But the screening procedure will continue since the Dept. of Justice has filed notice that it will appeal the decision. An injunction to halt the Coast Guard's star-chamber procedures against seamen and longshoremen cannot go into effect until and unless the appellate decision is upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

* * *

INCOMES UNDER $1000 a year are what 75% of Americans over the age of 65 get, and at least 64% of this age group maintain separate households according to "Economic Needs of Older People" the report of a three-year survey sponsored by the Twentieth Century Fund. Only 15% of the aged enjoy incomes over $2000 yearly.

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UNION DUES AND FEES account for half-a-billion dollars in yearly income to the nation's unions according to a Handbook of Union Government and Procedure published by the National Industrial Conference Board.

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A TEACHER'S SUSPENSION because she used the Fifth Amendment to refuse to answer questions before the House Un-American Activities Committee was revoked in Tacoma last month. Mrs. Margaret Schuddakopf was suspended last Aug. 31 without a hearing by the Pierce county school superintendent. She appealed to the state superintendent of public instruction, Mrs. Pearl Wannamaker, who lifted the suspension. Pierce county prosecutor, John O'Connell, said that the decision came as a "terrible surprise," and that he would appeal it to the Superior Court because the effect of the decision is that a teacher can publicly refuse to answer questions in regard to "Communist activity or Communist membership." "The exercise of that right cannot be denied, lest the denial itself be a violation of the Constitution," said Mrs. Wannamaker.

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THE CIVIL RIGHTS CONGRESS which provided bail for Communist Party Smith Act victims and has been under constant attack by government agencies since its formation in 1949 dissolved itself at a convention Jan. 7 in New York after the Subversive Activities Control Board ruled that the congress must register as a "subversive" organization. Its executive secretary, William L. Patterson, will wind up the affairs of the national organization and its 19 local chapters.

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SOCIAL NOTE: Grand Duchess Olga, sister of the late Czar Nicholas II, the last emperor of Russia, Archduchess Maria Ileana of Austria, grandaughter of Nicholas II, and Princess Vera of Russia, niece of Nicholas II headed the line which received Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney, Mrs. David Gimbel, and other members of America's ruling families at a ball on Jan. 12 celebrating New Years Eve (by the imperial Russian calendar overthrown by the Revolution in 1917, that is).

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"THE DEATH OF EMMETT TILL" a song by Mrs. A. C. Bilbrew has been recorded by The Ramparts and will be released this week on a nation wide basis by Dootone Recording Company, the nation's largest Negro owned and operated recording firm.

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THE BOYCOTT OF JIM CROW busses by Negroes (who constitute 75% of the riders) in Montgomery, Alabama has forced the bus company to increase fares by 50% in an attempt to make up for losses. Negro citizens, led by virtually all the city's Negro ministers, are demanding a "first come first serve" rule on bus seating, greater courtesy on the part of drivers, and employment of Negro drivers on routes serving predominently Negro areas.

* * *

ROWLAND WATTS author of "The Draftee and Internal Security" a study which spotlighted the Army's practice of giving less than honorable discharges to soldiers on the basis of their pre-Army political beliefs and associations, has been appointed staff council of the American Civil Liberties Union. Watts, national secretary of the Workers Defense League, will succeed Herbert Monte Levy, who is retiring to private law practice.

* * *

"A UNION ORGANIZER of textile on picket duty in Johnstown, N. Y., was knocked down and dragged several feet by a car driven by a strike-breaker. . . The organizer was arrested and here are the exact words of the charge against him: 'Allowing the car to drag him down the street and injure his arm'. . . It's a good thing his arm wasn't broken or he probably would have gotten the chair!" — From the Lorain Labor Leader, Jan. 5, 1955.

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Griffin Beating Mystery

By William Bundy

James P. Griffin, District 26 director of the United Steel Workers of America, has found the going difficult in the past few months. Even though he was president of the Ohio CIO Council and was chairman of its convention, Jan. 5, he declined to be a candidate for re-election. His declination followed widespread reports that he would meet stiff opposition if he decided to run.

This development followed the severe beating he suffered last month by "unknown" assailants during his attendance at the AFL-CIO merger convention in New York, where Griffin was set upon in a hotel room by four or five men who badly mauled him and left him with a dislocated jaw. Here are some facts which may shed light on this strange sequence of events.

Early in 1955 one of the vice-presidents of the Steel Workers, James P. Thimmes, died. The question of who would fill the vacancy precipitated a sharp internal union struggle, the first of its kind in the union.

David J. McDonald, successor to Philip Murray as Steelworkers president, did not enjoy the same authority as his predecessor. His joint tours through the plants with Benjamin Fairless and other management bigwigs and his public agreement with their views did not sit well with the union ranks. The 1954 recession in steel production also built up a restiveness that sought a means of expression.

When McDonald appointed a personal cohort, Howard Hague, to the post of vice-president, a sizeable minority of the executive board opposed him. Joseph P. Molony, director of District 4 (Buffalo) was nominated in opposition and a poll of the membership was set for October 25, 1955. A sharp contest between the two factions began.

The election campaign revealed no real differences between the two factions. Molony and his supporters developed no program

McDONALD

based on the needs of the ranks of the steelworkers. Thus the contest remained throughout a clique fight with McDonald retaining the upper hand.

The real significance of the election campaign was that, for the first time in the union's history, a contest could take place. The ranks would have the opportunity to choose rather than vote approval of the administration-picked candidate. It could have signified a step toward union democracy where the opinions of the ranks would find expression in contests for office. But this is not what the McDonald leadership could tolerate.

In the Pittsburgh area, the Molony campaign trailer, with its public address system, was set on fire in the middle of the night. Three campaigners narrowly escaped being burned to death. In Chicago, four Molony supporters were sent to the hospital by several carloads of "unknown" assailants armed with "ball bats and lead pipes."

McDonald's campaign did not inspire union democracy. The air was filled with threats and rumors about the changes that would be made after October 25. McDonald's control of jobs in the union apparatus was a powerful and potent weapon that was not to be ignored by the lower ranks of the bureaucracy.

In the voting McDonald's man Hague won by a two-to-one majority. While no open purge is in progress the attacks on Griffin, who was a most influential Molony supporter, might be an indication of the course of events.

It was widely rumored that someone in Griffin's district (Youngstown) was planning to raise the issue of steelworker's election before the AFL-CIO merger convention, and that might have been the cause for the physical attack upon Griffin.

It is evident from these events that the McDonald machine in the Steelworkers Union will react against any opposition with savage violence. **Any opposition, to succeed, must build its base in the ranks of the union. This can be done only by basing itself on a militant program answering the needs of the men on speed up, on working conditions, on automation, etc. The "co-trusteeship" of unions and bosses that McDonald advocates must be answered by a working class program against the bosses. Nothing else will succeed.**

WEAKNESS IN WORLD BOOM was noted by Warren Lee Pierson, president of the International Chamber of Commerce and former president of the Export Import Bank, in the Jan. 8 New York Times. "From charts, statistics and reports, 1955 looks like the best economic year the free world has had since WW II. But if economic strength could be measured in production figures alone, there would be little cause for worry about the immediate economic future," he said. His central point is that in the economic sphere, the weakness of one member cannot be compensated for by the strength of another, and that some parts of the capitalist world, particularly in the Far East, "are experiencing serious economic reversals."

Hillsboro Judge Defies Court On Segregation

By Jean Simon

CLEVELAND, Jan. 8 — The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati last Thursday reversed a year-old ruling of a lower court and directed U.S. District Judge John H. Druffel to frame a decision that would end public school segregation in Hillsboro, Ohio, at once. But the judge, instead of complying, took the initiative in organizing further opposition to immediate integration.

Disregarding any pretense of judicial impartiality, Judge Druffel told newsmen that he "will act only on directive of the U.S. Supreme Court." He announced his intention of meeting with the Hillsboro school board to secure their agreement to take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"I will ask the Hamilton County Bar Association to name an attorney to represent me and the case can be taken to the Supreme Court in my name," he said.

In a 2-to-1 decision, the Appeals Court had ordered Judge Druffel to issue a decision "which will provide for the immediate admittance to school on a non-segregated basis of school age Negro children not now in any Hillsboro public school . . ."

This referred to a group of children whose parents have steadfastly refused to send to the Jim Crow Lincoln school to which the local school board assigned them.

The appellate court also directed Druffel to "further provide by permanent injunction for the end of all racial segregation in the Hillsboro public schools on or before the commencement of the school year in September, 1956."

While observers throughout the state wondered how far Judge Druffel could go in trying to make his own prejudices law before he himself would be "in contempt of court," Hillsboro fighters for equality were not relying on legal suits alone to win integrated education for their children.

Plans were made by parents and supporters of their struggle, to attend the Hillsboro school board meeting tomorrow night, when the board will decide whether to comply with the new court decision or to let eager Judge Druffel proceed with further delaying tactics.

One of the three opponents of immediate integration on the five-man school board was defeated in an election held since the fight began following the Supreme Court decision of 1954. His successor's views and any change in sentiments of other members of the board will be demonstrated in the vote Monday night.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the parents said today that they are delighted with the Appeals Court decision, but will continue their boycott of the Jim Crow school indefinitely if the school board decides not to comply and permits Druffel to appeal the latest ruling.

Also being considered is a proposal to cut through the red tape of the federal courts by initiating an action under Ohio law, which bars public school segregation. A complete reversal of all previous decisions of the Ohio Supreme Court would be required in order to refuse an injunction against the jim crow practices of the Hillsboro school board.

Our Readers Take the Floor

Solidarity

Editor:

We realize that we do not have to stress the importance of the Kutcher Case or of the necessity of all socialists and civil-libertarians giving full support to the Kutcher Civil Rights Committee to the readers of the Militant.

Local Nassau-Suffolk Socialist Party was honored to have Comrade Kutcher as a speaker at our annual picnic last September. We all recognize in him a courageous fighter in the finest traditions of the socialist movement, and feel it the duty of all members of the Socialist Party, U.S.A. — as well as our comrades in the other socialist organizations — to extend to him and to the Socialist Workers Party solidarity in the heroic fight being waged against those who would make of our country one mass concentration camp.

Smash the witch hunt! Forward Socialism!

George R. Stryker
Secretary-Treasurer
Local Nassau-Suffolk
Socialist Party, U.S.A

* * *

Witch Hunt At City College

Editor:

Last week I attended a meeting at the City College of New York. It was held to protest a college ruling requiring all political and religious clubs to submit their membership lists to the school administration. This measure, which violates the very basis of political freedom on the campus was advocated by Buell Gallagher, the head of City College, and a self-proclaimed liberal.

He says he is for academic freedom. Yet he dares to sponsor one of the worst witch-hunt measures to afflict a college during these recent years. Here is how Gallagher defends his position on the thought-control lists:

"If we are to develop a sound democracy and maintain full freedom, we need to discourage the clandestine and the secret and encourage the open and competitive."

Gallagher argues that students in political clubs "should stand up and be counted" because "a person does not have the right to disclaim responsibility while enjoying the benefits of freedom."

What "benefits of freedom" are there for members of radical political groups? There is plenty of "freedom" for the conformists. But if a radical student is to pay for the benefits of freedom by handing over his name to the witch hunters, he pretty soon discovers these benefits are gone.

Prof. H. H. Wilson, a liberal of a different stripe than Buell Gallagher, was the principal speaker at the protest meeting at City College. He pointed out that the ruling was "one more technique for dampening down student interest, for housebreaking the young, for making students 'safe' and conformist." Wilson, incidentally, is a member of the Kutcher Civil Rights Committee.

Naturally, Gallagher let it be known that all he wanted was to get rid of the "communists." But as always, an attack on the civil liberties of one minority puts the liberties of all in jeopardy. Besides, the plan backfired. The Young Progressives of America and the Marxist Discussion Club handed in their membership lists. To remain on the campus officially they were willing to sacrifice the protection of their membership. But the Students for Democratic Action, under pressure from its members, refused to hand in its membership lists and went off the campus.

All the political clubs, except the Young Republicans, got together and formed a Political Action Committee. A referendum showed the student body was two-to-one against the lists. Gallagher began to "compromise." He promised the lists would be kept locked in a safe, which could only be opened with permission of a student-faculty committee; and any student who requests it could have his name removed after a semester.

With this shift in position Gallagher ostensibly abandoned his "stand up and be counted" line. Then why is he so anxious to push through a political registration system? Why not have complete freedom to join any club without any official snooping whatsoever?

Political life in the other city colleges in New York has died out. The faculties have been purged. Only City College remains — an outpost of resistance to the academic witch hunt. It is clearly the purpose of this political-listing move to intimidate the student body; to create an atmosphere in which the thought-control academic cops can move freely against "subversive" professors without fear of student demonstrations and strikes. The situation demands action. Those who say, "don't stick your neck out" fail to realize that if we wait too long then our necks will be cut off. It's better to fight now than be sorry later.

J. O.
City College, New York

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Boom in Baltimore

Editor:

The regular daily papers omit (deliberately I am certain) a great deal of news which is published in Socialist papers, and it is because I am not willing to be "fed" only one side of the story that I intend to continue reading Socialist papers as long as the pressures set up by the witch hunt do not make it impossible for me to do so.

Conditions in Baltimore are extremely difficult because, in addition to the pressures from the reactionary American Legion (which is active in all parts of the United States), there is the added situation that the Mayor and other city officials are Catholics and are therefore subject to the despotism of the Roman Catholic Church which considers that its rules and regulations are above and beyond any State, City or Federal laws.

Industrial expansion in this City is tremendous and there are plenty of jobs for all except a few people. While salaries are not as good as they could be, there is, in general, no distress. Competition among the retail stores is extreme. "Free gifts" are offered to people who buy things. In one case, besides a number of these "free gifts," one store was advertising "no down-payment" with the offer that they would give one hundred dollars in cash to anyone signing an installment purchase agreement for furniture or household appliances. All of this will inevitably lead to future trouble. But at the present time, the majority seems to feel that "we never had it so good," which, in relation to the past, especially the depression years, is quite true.

This artificially stimulated "boom" is certain to lead to a "bust" and if I am any judge, in the not-too-distant future, at which time, during the disillusioning period, an appreciable number of people should be willing to give more consideration to socialism.

A Militant reader
Baltimore, Md.

A Mother Fights

Editor:

Mamie Bradley, mother of Emmett Louis Till, spoke this evening, Jan. 2, to about 300 or 400 Negro and white workers at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall, the same hall in which 3,000 persons listened to Dr. Howard speak on the brutal murder of Mrs. Bradley's son. Dr. Howard spoke here last Oct. 23 with the sponsorship of the NAACP at which time officials of the NAACP, many dignitaries of the city and union representatives appeared on the platform with Dr. Howard. This evening only a companion lady and a Reverend Beck of Buffalo, N. Y., appeared on the platform with Mrs. Bradley.

Reverend Beck introduced Mrs. Bradley who spoke in a clear and concise manner faltering only when she described the mutilated body of her boy when it arrived in Chicago for burial.

Here was not a mother seeking pity nor weeping about the loss of a good son. Here was a mother seeking a way to save other mother's sons, trying to bring justice to bear on this and the many other cases of "unsolved" crimes against the Negro people.

Though Mrs. Bradley urged her audience to place their faith in God she called on each and everyone to use the right to the ballot, to visit their representative in public office placed there by the ballot they had cast, to learn exactly where they stood on the pressing questions of the times and to inform them that if they did not live up to their avowed beliefs that they would be removed at the next election.

One woman in the audience then asked about the mobilization that Dr. Howard had urged be held in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Bradley didn't know other than that there had been some talk of such a mobilization. The woman then urged that delegates from every local union and Negro organization, every white and colored person who could get there should be mobilized in Washington soon after the convening of Congress to demand that troops be sent into Mississippi to be kept there until justice was established and every Negro allowed to live without fear or reprisal for lifting his voice in dignity. The spontaneous cheering and applause that met this suggestion showed very clearly the mood of the audience.

L. M.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Ray of Hope

Editor:

Very happy to see by my local paper that Jimmy Kutcher's case is getting at long last a good press coverage. Please extend my personal congratulations to those responsible for the nation-wide, fine publicity.

I enclose a clipping from the Toledo Blade, Dec. 30, that I think you will find interesting. [The clipping told the story of Joseph Hammond whose compensation for 33 months in a prisoner of war camp in Korea has been withheld by the government despite the fact that Hammond who holds the Bronze Star for bravery and was honorably discharged from the Army has never been tried on any charges whatsoever.—Ed.]

The Militant's arrival each week brings a ray of hope after a steady diet of capitalist propaganda and distortion, plus the mundane events of daily life such as auto accidents and robberies.

My contribution isn't much but will help the good cause I know. Keep the paper at least at its present level and the day will come. Happy new year.

D.M.
Toledo, Ohio

* * *

Witch-Hunt Victim

Editor:

We had a very interesting discussion with a man who had never talked to us before, just paid for the paper and that was it. He invited us in this time and we spent about an hour there. Chuck described him as being like a pressure cooker with the top screwed down tight — when it was opened a little, so much bitterness expressed itself.

He started by telling us of being screened off the job, because many years ago he had been involved in the fight — in fact played a leading role in the fight — to get Negroes the right to work at an aircraft plant. This was used against him in the screening hearing. Not only is he screened, but his son too, for nothing other than being his son.

He was very much in agreement on our idea for running candidates from the ranks of the Negro and union movement. He could see no friends in the Democratic party and nothing, of course, in the Republicans.

Helen Baker
Seattle, Wash.